

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING STUDENT
ATHLETES' RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND
MODESTY**

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution encourages all municipalities, public and private K-12 schools, universities, and organizations supporting youth athletic teams and activities to allow youth to wear religious clothing or headwear or to modify their uniforms to accommodate religious beliefs or personal values of modesty without barriers or limitations.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

▸ acknowledges that all children and youth should have access to athletic teams and activities without barriers and limitations; and

▸ encourages all municipalities, public and private schools, and organizations that support athletic teams and activities to revise internal policies and allow all children and youth participating in athletic activities to wear religious clothing or headwear or to modify their uniforms to accommodate religious beliefs and personal values of modesty.

Special Clauses:

None



Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, Utah's children and youth participate in team sports and other athletic activities through municipal youth sports programs, public and private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, leagues, and clubs;

WHEREAS, participating in athletic teams and activities has many positive benefits for children and youth, like helping them develop friendships, develop leadership and teamwork skills, improve academic performance, improve mental and physical health, learn responsibility, and can lead to college scholarships and other enriching opportunities;

WHEREAS, if children and youth are excluded from athletic teams or activities at a young age, many will be hesitant to seek these opportunities again and miss out on the benefits and opportunities that would otherwise be available to them;

WHEREAS, children and youth who want to participate in athletic teams or activities should have access to those opportunities from an early age without barriers or limitations;

WHEREAS, municipalities, schools, and organizations that support athletic teams and activities should not use policies and practices that exclude children and youth who seek to observe the tenants of their religion or personal values of modesty through their clothing from participating, particularly with prohibitions against modifying uniforms to accommodate religious clothing and headwear and making modesty adjustments to uniforms, or by making it difficult to obtain permission to do so;

WHEREAS, over the past several years, many municipalities, states, and youth athletics organizations across the country and in Utah have created policies to allow young athletes to participate in athletic teams or activities while accommodating religious practices and beliefs and personal values of modesty without needing uniform waivers; and

WHEREAS, all schools and organizations in the state have an opportunity to foster the same inclusivity for all young athletes:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, encourages all municipalities, local education agencies, private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, leagues, athletic associations, and clubs with youth athletic teams or activities to evaluate and revise any policies and practices that prevent aspiring young athletes from participating, particularly those that would prevent participants from wearing religious clothing and headwear while participating, or prevent them from modifying athletic

59 uniforms to accommodate religious practices and beliefs or sincerely held values about
60 modesty.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage the State
62 Board of Education and all local education agency governing boards to create policies allowing
63 students to modify athletic uniforms to accommodate their religious clothing, headwear,
64 practices and beliefs, or personal values of modesty without uniform waivers.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor commend all
66 organizations in the state that have proactively taken steps to allow children and youth
67 participating in athletic teams and activities to wear religious clothing and headwear or make
68 modesty adjustments to athletic uniforms, creating an inclusive environment for all of Utah's
69 aspiring young athletes.